Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 06:00 on Saturday 26 Dec 2020 until 23:59 on Sunday 27 Dec 2020

Forecast Issued on Saturday 26 Dec 2020 at 03:07

Confidence: High for stormy conditions developing on Boxing Day and turning colder on Sunday. Low for any snow timings.

Headline for Saturday 26 Dec 2020: Stormy conditions with heavy rain developing.

Mountain weather hazards on Saturday 26 Dec 2020

Blizzards No Likelihood	**Heavy Snow** No Likelihood	**Storm force winds** High Likelihood
Gales High Likelihood	**Severe chill effect** High Likelihood	**Poor visibility** Medium Likelihood
Thunderstorms No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent rain** Low Likelihood	**Strong sunlight** No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m					
Time					
06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Cloudy	Light rain	Light rain	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain
Precipitation probability					
20%	40%	60%	60%	70%	90%

Forecast for Saturday 26 Dec 2020

Weather: Mostly cloudy this morning with patchy rain at times. The rain turning heavier and more persistent during the afternoon, the heavy rain continuing this evening. The rain turning to sleet or wet snow at times over the highest summits. Winds also strengthening through the day, turning stormy at height by dusk with severe buffeting and the risk of being blown over. There will also be a severe wind chill.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: 50% in the morning, becoming 20% or less by dusk, extensive cloud base 600 to 900m

Visibility: Moderate in rain and poor or very poor at times at height. Often very good in the morning.

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Saturday 26 Dec 2020

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph) Wind Direction (blowing from)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	36/43 W	38/46 SW	42/54 SW	45/58 SW	55/72 SW	60/79 SW	49/66 SW
600	31/40 W	33/43 SW	37/50 SW	39/54 SW	48/67 SW	51/71 SW	42/59 SW
300	11/32 W	13/34 SW	15/39 SW	15/42 SW	19/52 SW	21/57 SW	19/48 SW
Valley	11/30 W	14/33 SW	16/36 SW	17/40 SW	21/49 SW	24/55 SW	23/48 SW

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	0/-8	0/-8	1/-8	0/-9	0/-9	1/-9	0/-9
600	2/-5	2/-5	3/-5	2/-5	3/-6	3/-6	2/-6
300	5/1	4/0	4/0	4/0	5/0	5/-0	4/-1
Valley	6/3	6/2	6/2	6/2	7/3	7/2	6/1
Freezing Level*	1000m	1000m	1000m	1000m	1000m	1000m	900m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Stormy conditions over the tops by dusk with severe buffeting and wind chill.

Forecast for Sunday 27 Dec 2020

Weather: Heavy overnight rain and summit snow. Bright spells and snow showers during daylight hours and early evening, although rain or sleet at lowest levels. Temporary blizzard conditions possible over the summits. Most of the showers dying out in the evening with a widespread frost.

Maximum wind: West or SW 20 to 30mph gusts 40mph with a severe wind chill.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: 60%, cloud mainly near or above the summits, but lowering significantly in snow showers.

Visibility: Very good becoming poor or very poor in snow showers.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Plus 2 during the day, falling to Minus 4 in the evening
At 800m: Minus 3 Celsius
Freezing level: Around 300m midday, all levels by evening.

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement

Date Friday 25 December. Location: Helvellyn summit at 1215. Temperature minus 2.0 degC. Maximum wind speed 20.9mph. Wind chill minus 10.4 degC. Average wind speed 17.2mph.

Full report. A hard frost overnight created patches of ice on paths at all levels. However, below 450m some paths were largely dry. Above 450m snow was encountered with the main snowline being around 550m. The snow depth increased with height although since the snow was deposited on strong gale force NE winds, actual coverage varies from little on exposed areas, such as parts of the summit plateau, to drifts deep enough to swallow a 70cm ice axe, although such depth is the exception. Where the snow has been undisturbed it is generally soft, sometimes with a hard crust. However on popular routes where it has been compacted and also below 600m where there has been a thaw/freeze there is a thin layer of hard snow and ice. This was causing problems today, especially on descent, and on the so-called easy routes up Helvellyn from the Thirlmere side. An ice axe or walking poles for stability combined with micro-spikes are both very useful in these conditions. Exposed routes above the snowline, such as Striding and Swirral Edges, have similar conditions underfoot to those already described ie soft snow, hard compacted snow and also rime ice on rocks. Therefore, such routes should only be attempted by those equipped for, and experienced in, these conditions. Full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat & gloves), mountain boots and equipment are all essential for anyone going out onto the fells. For those venturing above the snowline and attempting, or traversing, steep slopes an ice axe is essential and crampons should also be carried in case ice or hard snow is encountered. Excellent navigational skills are required when deep snow obscuring landmarks is combined with low cloud. A good sense of humour could also be essential given the fact that, at the time of writing, Cumbria is under 2 Met Office Yellow warnings for both rain and the strength of the wind from Boxing Day Afternoon. It could well be a day for sitting by a roaring fire.

Climbers - East facing crags were well rimed above 750m and any exposed turf was well frozen. However there is very limited snow cover in the gullies so the risk of damage to the rare alpine plants that grow here is still unacceptably high. In addition the forecasted milder temperatures and Met Office weather warnings do not invite getting the climbing gear out!

May the Fell Top Assessing team of Zac, Wes and Jon wish everyone a very Happy Christmas with many enjoyable, memorable and safe days out in our magnificent fells.

Issued at: 03:07 on Sat 26 Dec 2020

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